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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8115
INFO RUEHK/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 0885
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 7878
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY 6059
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 4389
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 2021
RUEHN/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 4381
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 3476
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI PRIORITY 8483
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI PRIORITY 5943
RUEHON/AMCONSUL TORONTO PRIORITY 0647
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 2761
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 000465

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/INS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/13/2018

TAGS: PGOV PREL PTER PHUM MOPS CE

SUBJECT: SRI LANKA: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES PROSPECTS FOR PEACE WITH TAMIL LEADER

Classified By: Ambassador Robert O. Blake, Jr., for reasons 1.4(b,d).

¶1. (C) On May 12 Ambassador met with V. Anandasangaree, President of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) to discuss devolution of power and prospects for peace. Anandasangaree stressed that the LTTE is not the sole representative of the Tamil people, and that the government should talk with other actors. He commended the Ambassador for being one of the few international spokespersons to get this right. He pointed to Tamil constituencies living outside the LTTE-held north, i.e. "more than half the Sri Lankan Tamil population (that) lives peacefully" among Sinhalese and Muslims in the South, and the large Tamil diaspora in Europe, Scandinavia, the U.S., and Canada. Anandasangaree emphasized that a political solution to the conflict should be couched in terms of the Indian federalist model, which can be sold easily to the Sri Lankan people, as well as to Indian Tamils. Ambassador pointed out that many of the All Party Representative Committee proposals are based on the Indian model, which Anandasangaree acknowledged.

¶2. (C) Anandasangaree informed Ambassador that Sri Lankan Air Force night raids in the Vanni have stopped, following a letter that Anandasangaree sent to President Rajapaksa on April 17. His letter urged the President to end the night aerial attacks because they are "sure to cause immense hardship and innumerable casualties among civilians."

¶3. (C) Anandasangaree was critical of the government's decision to appoint Minister of Social Services and Social Welfare and EPDP Leader Douglas Devananda as Chairman of the newly established Special Task Force Committee for Northern Development to oversee development and resettlement in the North. The Task Force is seen as a prelude to a future Northern Provincial Council. Anandasangaree noted Devananda's and the EPDP's history of serious election abuses and alleged human rights violations in the north.

¶4. (C) COMMENT: Anandasangaree is one of the few remaining moderate Tamil politicians who have not been killed by the LTTE. He does not sit in parliament. He often supports the government and is a potential future candidate for governor of the Northern Province, but does not hesitate to criticize the GSL about human rights and other problems.

BLAKE